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Wednesday, February 27, 2013

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FARC rebels urge Colombians to 'mobilize for peace'

HAVANA (AFP) - Leftist FARC rebels called on Colombians to "mobilize for peace" on Tuesday after President Juan Manuel Santos threatened to abandon talks aimed at ending a nearly 50-year old conflict.

"We hope the government isn't thinking of kicking the table over," rebel negotiator Ivan Marquez, the number two FARC official, told reporters here.

"We call on the Colombian people to mobilize in defense of the peace process, and to not let this hope be snatched from us," Marquez

said.

Rebels with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the Santos administration have been engaged in peace talks in Cuba since November.

Frustrated over a lack of progress in the negotiations, Santos on Saturday threatened to abandon the bargaining.

"As long as we make progress we'll be satisfied," Santos said at a public event in the department of Antioquia. "But if we do not make progress we'll leave the negotiating table."

San Nicolas Community Museum announced



Representative of Odor Family, Ministers Oduber and de Meza sign



Alice van Romandt signs on behalf of Minister Hooyboer Winklaar

An ardent historian, Mario Odor, (RIP), was dedicated to the preservation of island and regional history and culture. He established the Odor Family Foundation, which resulted in the Numismatic Museum in 1975 and the Antique and Heritage Museum in 1994 in their home at Timbalstraat, in the Dakota area of Oranjestad.

The first is now closed, the second, usually only open to the public on March 18, Aruba's National Day, or by appointment. It houses a remarkable and eclectic collection of fascinating artifacts, encompassing a diversity of

topics demonstrating Aruban history and development, plus that of the region, and even the world.

It was announced on Monday afternoon, February 25, that three ministries have joined together to establish the Aruba Museum Foundation, which will be dedicated to seeing such collections are made available on a daily basis to the public for viewing and education.

The collection is remarkable and spans millennia. An-

cient fossils stand next to tableaus of an authentically recreated colonial kitchen and bedroom and 19th century barbershop, just to name a few of the examples of old time Aruba that have been preserved.

Art by noted contemporary artists can be found along with the original newspapers recounting world shaking events, such as the Russian Revolution, or a actual wanted poster for Jesse James.

Continued on pg 5



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**Balkenende during the Ernst & Young
 "Young Entrepreneurs" Event:
 Aruba's decision to profile
 itself as a sustainable
 island offers many
 opportunities**



"Aruba is the island of tourism, and the refinery, but I think that it is good to look as well into other activities which help build a very strong economic profile," said Prof. Jan Peter Balkenende. He underlined that it is of great importance that Aruba has a profile describing its goals for economic development. The choice of Aruba for the theme sustainability and to profile itself as a sustainable island offers the island also many opportunities, according to Balkenende.

Sustainability can be connected to tourism, but for example also to the financial sector, to innovation, to technology, the former Dutch prime minister explained. The research he collaborated on shows that there are many opportunities for Aruba, which means that the island must focus on what it wants to achieve. In other words, concerted actions are necessary to ensure that the necessary knowledge is generated. Knowledge in the areas of tourism and sustainability has to be increased, and Balke-

nende mentions that it is therefore of importance to establish ties with centers of expertise such as universities and businesses. An institute such as TNO for example, which has been active on Aruba with clear goals for some time in the area of research, is therefore also very important.

Liaisons with countries such as Brazil, where much work is being done in the area of sustainability, are important. Aruba has to consider where the island can work together with other countries. Balkenende stated that Aruba has a well-defined profile with which it can assume an important position in the region. Aruba will not be able to function that easily as a transit port, but will be able to excel in certain areas, for example in the area of sustainability. Sustainability can be brought into action in tourism. And thus this specific connection can make Aruba more interesting to the countries in the region, said Balkenende.

In regards to the completed research, Balkenende explains that the refinery is always dependent on a foreign investor and thus it is so important to seek other economic pillars in addition to tourism and the refinery. During the research process the different prospects that could serve to diversify the economy of Aruba and so strengthen the economic future of Aruba, were considered. Balkenende sees opportunities for this since Aruba has a good profile, and a good foundation.

Aruba: Beware of the sun! Incidence of Melanoma appears higher among men than women

Cardiovascular diseases are highest, with cancer second highest on Aruba. With respect to Melanoma, cancer of the skin, this is the most common disease and is second on the list. Not only is this the most common, it is also the one disease with the worst consequences, hence early detection is crucial for treatment and recovery. Melanoma is called the black cancer, because it usually presents in the form of a mole which changes color and texture, according to Dermatologist, Nuris Lampe.

The government has noted recently that the incidence of Melanoma on Aruba is increasing and particularly among men. The cause may be that more men are working in the construction and work in the open air and exposed to more of the sun without proper protection from its harmful rays. The damage from over exposure of the sun over time can result in skin cancer.

Those who must work in the outdoors are advised to take necessary precautions to protect against the sun. They should wear proper clothing, long sleeves and long pants and cover as much of their body as possible. The use of a good sunblock, preferably, waterproof applied regularly during the day is a must. Melanoma is curable. The chance for successful treatment is increased when it is detected and treated early enough.

The statistics for the incidence of Melanoma are: for 2007 - 133 cases, 2008 - 144 cases, 2009 - 156 cases, and for 2011 - 208 cases. From 2010 to 2011 there was an increase of 14% in new cases of Melanoma. According to Dr.



Nuris Lampe, the situation is alarming, and it is important for everyone to know how to check themselves. She advises: check your total body once ever month - which should take no more than 10 minutes. Go to your doctor the moment you notice whatever change, spot, mole or blemish on your body.

People on Aruba are exposed almost the entire day to the harmful rays of the sun and we must avoid getting sun burn. The Dermatologist explained that there are globally six types of people. Type 1 are those with light colored eyes and hair and white skin, who can burn within 5 to 15 minutes in the sun. Sun burns are quite visible in this type of person, because it becomes red almost immedi-

ately. The majority of the people on Aruba fall within the category three, who suffer burns after about 2 hours of sun exposure.

It is especially crucial to ensure that our young children do not get sun burn. The younger the person is when they get sun burn, the possibility increases for developing Melanoma much younger. Melanoma is a disease of young people. The damage is usually done at an early age, while the cancer appears much later in life.

The Minister of Health Richard Visser ask the Aruban community to pay special attention to the sun during the upcoming Holy Week when everyone heads off to our beaches. Parents especially take note of the kids: rub sunblock over the children's whole body and stay in a cool spot as much as possible.

March 16 and 17 the Aruban community is invited to participate in a national Skin Cancer investigation. You may register by email via checkboquero@gmail.com or call tel. 588-5506.

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recaps the astounding contribution that women make in Aruba, and the impact this has on the lives of many. She will make the case for building a stronger community through uniting women across the island.



H.R.H. Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands

Aruba welcomes back Princess Laurentien, UNESCO's Special Envoy on "Literacy for Development" in recognition of her outstanding commitment to the promotion of education and her profound dedication to the Organization's ideals and objectives.



Dr. Sue Morter - Master of Bio-Energetic Medicine and Quantum Field Visionary

utilizes the embodiment of high frequency energy patterns to activate full human potential. Through her presentations she illuminates the relationships of quantum thoughts and energy medicine; the elevation of human consciousness and life mastery.



Elizabeth Gore - Resident Entrepreneur United Nations Foundation

is the first ever Resident Entrepreneur at the United Nations Foundation and chairs the UN Foundation's Global Entrepreneurs Council. She builds global partnerships and cause marketing strategies implemented in programs and campaigns supporting the humanitarian issues of the United Nations.



Maria Bello - Actress/Activist

internationally renowned actress, starring in over 30 movies (including "Coyote Ugly," "A History of Violence," and "The Cooler"), women's rights activist and the co-founder of We Advance. We Advance is a women's movement and NGO based in Cite Soleil, Haiti, that advocates for women throughout the country to have full political, economic, and social participation.



Michele Y. Brooks - Owner/Managing Director - Purposeful Journey Consulting Group VBA

Michele presents a compelling case for "Building on Female Capital" including why invest in the development of women as human capital, what men can learn from the women on their team, and what women can learn from other successful women.



dr. Hellen A. van der Wal - Criminologist and children's rights advocate - Empowering Girls in Aruba

co-founder, past President (1999-2010) and Board Member of the Children's Help Line in Aruba, Ms. van der Wal shares with us important information regarding national action required to improve the lives of girls in Aruba.

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MARRIOTT ARUBA CARE FOUNDATION INVESTS IN A GREENER ARUBA

Planting 36 trees and 60 flower pots at Elementary School Fatima College



This "green" project provides the students of the Fatima College a better environment at school and as a part of their education program, they will continue to take care of the trees and plants," says Care Foundation President Ben Figaroa.

Marriott Care Foundation's upcoming project will take place on March 16th supporting the largest Aruba volunteer program "Aruba Doet".

About:

The Marriott Aruba Care Foundation was founded in 1999 by the associates of the Aruba Marriott and has been actively contributing to the Aruba community for the past fourteen years. It embodies a living and breathing sentiment and "Spirit to Serve" within the associates who fund the Foundation through direct financial contributions.

Currently over 540 associates contribute monthly to the Care Foundation.

Foundation focuses to give back to the local community.



On Saturday February 23, 2013 the Marriott Aruba Care Foundation took the initiative to plant new trees and flower pots at local elementary school Fatima College in Dakota.

Over 60 volunteers, mainly associates of the Aruba Marriott, dedicated their Saturday morning to plant thirty six fruit and vegetable trees and sixty flower pots. Care members and families and school children of the Fatima College all shared great enthusiasm for the project and worked together to get the job done.

"The Marriott Aruba Care

Trevor and pat Bazilio honored by ATA at Del Rey Apartments



Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple whom are loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba, at the Del Rey Apartments, as Distinguished Visitors. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10 to 19 consecutive years.

The honorees were Mr. Trevor and Mrs. Pat Bazilio from Ontario Canada. Trevor and Pat love Aruba very much, because of the friendly Aruban people, the facilities at the Del Rey Apartments, the climate, beaches, restaurants and they love to meet every year with their lovely Aruban friends.

The certificate was presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with staff members of Del Rey Apartments and friends of the Bazilio couple.

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San Nicolas Community Museum announced

Continued from pg 1



Minister of Tourism, Transport and Labor, Otmar Oduber, was joined by Minister of Finance, Energy, Telecom-

munications and Utilities, Mike de Meza in the former B.J. Arends Hardware store in San Nicolas in making the announcement. Alice van Romondt represented Minister of Economic and Social Affairs and Culture, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar, in signing the papers officially establishing the Aruba Museum Foundation. This first project will be temporarily housed in the former store, which had been donated by owner Milton Harms, to be used as an after-school community center for San Nicolas youth. It is a very attractive space, with several rooms that would lend themselves to just a venture.

It is planned to find a permanent home for the collection in one of the landmark buildings being restored in San Nicolas. An agreement was also signed with a representative of the Odor Family Foundation for the free use by the Aruba Museum Foundation of this extensive collection for the next five years at a cost of 95,000 Aruban florins. (\$54,285 U.S.)

Minister Oduber mentioned that the museum will be open during the hours of the weekly Carubbian Festival that takes place on the main street of San Nicolas every Thursday evening. This will provided added value to the visitors of the event, as well as generally to entice

tours to San Nicolas. "I would like to see the town and its many interesting sites become a regular part of the itinerary of most tour companies," he expressed. The building where this historic collection will be housed is directly behind the CMB Bank, adjacent to the festival streets.

Monies for the establishment of the museum are being provided by the Tourism Enhancement Fund as well as investment by the San Nicolas Business Associ-



A tableau of an oldtime barber shop

ation. Projected opening date of the San Nicolas Community Museum is Monday, March 18 of this year.

By Rosalie Klein



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Pentagon nominee Hagel clears key US Senate hurdle

WASHINGTON (AFP) - President Barack Obama's pick to head the Pentagon was virtually assured of confirmation Tuesday when dubious Republican lawmakers finally agreed to bring Chuck Hagel's nomination to a vote.

Senators voted by 71 to 27, with 18 Republicans joining the majority Democrats, to approve a procedural measure that cleared the way for the Senate to hold a full vote on confirmation later in the day.

Hagel's nomination had been held up for more than a week after several Republicans demanded information about Hagel's finances and transcripts of speeches that he gave to international organizations.

But even some of his strongest critics, including Republican senators Bob Corker, Lindsey Graham and John McCain, eventually agreed to end debate on the nomination and allow an up-or-down floor vote.

The likely confirmation will end a seven-week saga that saw the 66-year-old former Republican senator unsettled in congressional

testimony when critics savaged his record on issues related to the Middle East.

He also survived a tense committee vote that saw him subjected to such harsh criticism that fellow Vietnam War veteran McCain was moved to warn fellow Republicans not to impugn the patriotism of "an honorable man."

Republicans could have stalled one last time, pushing the vote until Wednesday, but they relented, allowing the full vote to take place Tuesday.

Senate majority leader Harry Reid sounded relieved, but could not help getting in a few more digs at his opponents.

"Senator Hagel is the first nominee for secretary of defense to be filibustered in the history of the United States," Reid said.

"Politically motivated delays send a terrible signal to our allies and to the world," as well as to US troops serving in Afghanistan, Reid said. "For the sake of national security, it's time to set aside this partisanship."

The floor vote will require a simple majority.

"We must end this uncertainty about this position," said Carl Levin, chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee, which had itself only approved Hagel after a tense party-line vote.

Levin and Reid argued that the delay could cause dangerous harm to US military readiness and credibility at a time of tension in the Middle East, concern over Iran's nuclear ambitions, and North Korea's recent atomic test.

Compounding the problem is \$85 billion in across-the-board spending cuts set to kick-in on Friday, a measure that would ravage many military programs and lead to furloughs of the Defense Department's 800,000 civilian workers.

Bulgarian bishop's Rolex to pay church electricity bill



Rolex watch to pay his cash-strapped church's electricity bills.

"Plovdiv Metropolitan Nikolay has offered one of his few personal objects, a Rolex watch, to the Saint Marina church, requesting that it be sold so that the electricity bill can be paid," said the church, one of the main ones in the central Bulgarian city of Plovdiv.

Bulgaria's Orthodox Church is the largest property owner in the country after the state but is short on liquid funds and its clergy receive a pittance in salary.

It has come under fire for accepting donations from

SOFIA (AFP) - A top Bulgarian cleric accused of leading a privileged life-style, has offered his luxurious

Amsterdam raises legal age for prostitution to 21

THE HAGUE (AFP) - The city of Amsterdam said Tuesday it will raise the legal age of prostitutes from 18 to 21 and announced plans to close brothels during the early morning hours in a bid to protect sex workers.

"The minimum age for a prostitute is raised from 18 to 21 years," the Dutch capital city announced in a statement, and said the new rules are meant to fight industry abuses and "strengthen prostitutes' position."

The city also wants brothels in Amsterdam's landmark red-light district to close between 4.00 am and 9.00 am (0300 GMT and 0800 GMT) on weekdays and from 5.00 am (0400 GMT) on week-



ends.

"At the moment, there isn't much surveillance and social controls during these hours," it said, noting that as a result "it is more dangerous to work and prostitutes have to deal with drunk and aggressive clients during these hours."

With an estimated 5,000 to 8,000 prostitutes, the city's red-light district attracts sex tourists from around the world to a country long considered one of the world's most liberal.

Observers have pointed to a move in recent years towards conservatism, including efforts to curtail legal soft drug use and prostitution.

Amsterdam says it wants to decrease the number of sex workers in a move to fight crime generated by prostitution, which was legalised in the Netherlands in 2000.



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International News

19 tourists killed as balloon explodes at Egypt's Luxor



LUXOR (AFP) - A hot air balloon exploded and plunged to earth at Egypt's ancient temple city of Luxor during a sunrise flight on Tuesday, killing up to 19 tourists, including Asians and Europeans, sources said.

The balloon carrying 21 tourists from Hong Kong, Japan, France, Britain and Hungary was flying at 300 metres (1,000 feet) when it caught fire and exploded, a security official said.

The pilot and one tourist survived by jumping out of the basket moments before it hit the ground, said an employee at the company operating the balloon, Sky Cruise. Both were taken to hospital.

"This is terrible, just terrible," the employee told AFP by telephone, declining to give her name. "We don't yet know what happened exactly or what went wrong."

Luxor Governor Ezzat Saad imposed an immediate ban on all hot air balloon flights in the province as Prime Minister Hisham Qandil ordered an investigation into the accident.

Security services cordoned off the scene of the crash in Luxor's dense sugar cane fields, as police and residents inspected the charred remains of the balloon.

"There was a terrifying sound when the balloon exploded," one resident, Ahmed, 40, told AFP.

"Bodies engulfed in flames were falling out of the balloon," said Youssef al-Tayyeb, another resident who witnessed the accident.

The balloon had been floating over the west bank of

Luxor, one of Egypt's most renowned archaeological sites and home to the famous Valley of the Kings and the grand Temple of Hatshepsut, when it exploded.

There was confusion over the exact death toll and the tourists' nationalities, with different official bodies giving conflicting figures and details.

Egypt opposition says to boycott elections

CAIRO (AFP) - Egypt's main opposition coalition, the National Salvation Front, said Tuesday it will boycott upcoming parliamentary elections due to a lack of guarantees of a transparent process.

Member Sameh Ashousaid the decision came after its demands, including the formation of a new government "to save the country", had been ignored.

The NSF said it would also boycott a national dialogue called for by Islamist President Mohamed Morsi, which was to be aired live on television on Tuesday afternoon according to the presidency.

Mohamed ElBaradei, a prominent member of the Front and former head of the UN atomic agency, had issued his own boycott call on Saturday.

The NSF also shunned a national dialogue called for by President Morsi aimed at putting in place "guarantees for the transparency and fairness

French hot air balloon expert Philippe Buron-Pilat de Rozier said the blast could have been caused by a leak after a spark caused by a lighter or a cigarette.

Another reason could be wear and tear due to poor maintenance or if the pilot is badly positioned, said Buron-Pilat de Rozier, adding that hot air balloons such as the ones used in Egypt are generally 40 metres (130 feet) high and can carry up to 25 passengers.

In 2009, 13 foreign tourists were injured when their hot air balloon hit a phone mast and crashed at Luxor. Sources at the time said the balloon was overcrowded.

The crash comes amid widespread anger over safety standards in Egypt following several deadly transport and construction accidents.

of the elections."

He accused the Muslim Brotherhood of wanting to "politically kidnap Egypt, to monopolise its institutions and dominate all the state organs."

The Brotherhood and its Islamist allies had clinched an overwhelming majority in the legislative polls in the winter of 2011 and 2012, but the parliament was later dissolved when a court found irregularities in the voting system.

The NSF organised massive protests against Morsi in November and December after he adopted now-repealed powers that shielded his decisions from judicial review.

But anti-Morsi protests have slowed since he pushed through an Islamist-drafted constitution in a December referendum, with the mass rallies giving way to smaller, and often violent, protests.

The staggered parliamentary elections are due to begin on April 22 and end two months later.

Obama: budget cuts wrong, not smart and not fair

NEWPORT NEWS (AFP) - President Barack Obama Tuesday warned imminent government budget cuts that could cost jobs and cut services were wrong, not smart, not fair and a self-inflicted economic wound.

Obama traveled to a yard which builds some of the US Navy's biggest ships, including hulking nuclear aircraft carriers and attack submarines, to warn of the impact of the arbitrary, automatic cuts known as the sequester.

"These cuts are wrong, they are not smart, they are not fair," Obama said in a vast assembly hall, with the yet-to-be-attached screw propeller of a ship behind him, and the huge nose section of a submarine off to his right. "They are a self-inflicted wound that doesn't have to happen."

Obama warned that Republicans in Washington did not want to share sacrifices for cutting the deficit, as they dig in and refuse his call to raise more revenues by closing loopholes in the tax code.

"There are too many Republicans in Congress right now who refuse to compromise even an inch when it comes to closing tax loopholes and special interest tax breaks," Obama told hundreds of shipbuilders in

a campaign-style event.

Obama's trip was his latest effort to hike pressure on Republicans by laying out the impact of the sequester, which could cost hundreds of thousands of jobs and hit US economic growth after it is imposed on Friday.

"I need you, Virginia, to keep up the pressure... if you stand up and speak out, Congress will listen," Obama, a Democrat, said.

He was accompanied, unusually, on Air Force One by a Republican congressman, Scott Rigell, who is caught between his own party and the fate of his own local constituents who could be furloughed when the sequester hits.

Rigell, who said he made the trip to grab some private time with the president, warned "our country has a spending problem," but also backed Obama's plan to avert the sequester by targeted budget cuts and higher revenues.

"I also believe that revenue has to come up a bit, first by growing the economy, but also by tax reform which also includes eliminating lobbyist-inspired, lobbyist-written loopholes. I am in favor of that."



WASHINGTON -- The federal government released groups of illegal immigrants from custody across the country Monday at the same time the White House was making its case that impending budget cuts would harm efforts to protect the border and enforce federal immigration laws. U.S. Immigration Customs and Enforcement spokesperson Gillian Christensen said: "As a result of this review, a number of detained aliens have been released around the country and placed on an appropriate, more cost-effective form of supervised release." Christensen said ICE is continuing to prosecute their cases in immigration court and will seek their removal from the country.

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Health & Living

Wombs for rent: Indian surrogate mothers tell their tales



NEW DELHI (AFP) - As baby Lili celebrates her first birthday in Australia, far away in India her surrogate mother recalls the day the child was born -- and on whom she never laid eyes.

"I averted my gaze," says Seita Thapa, recounting her experience of giving birth at the Surrogacy Centre India clinic in New Delhi last February on behalf of a gay male couple who used an egg donated from another woman.

"Why would I want to see the child? -- I have my own children," said the mother of two teenagers aged 16 and 18, adding that the clinic gives courses that "prepare us mentally for the fact it's not our baby".

Commercial surrogacy is a booming industry in India with legions of childless foreign couples looking for a low-cost, legally simple route to parenthood.

While the Indian government has been pushing the country as a medical tourism destination, the issue of wealthy foreigners paying poor Indians to have babies has raised ethical concerns in many Indian minds about "baby factories".

The Confederation of Indian Industry, a leading business association, estimates the in-

dustry now generates more than \$2 billion in revenues annually.

In a bid to silence critics, India recently issued rules barring foreign gay couples and singles from using surrogates, drawing sharp criticism from rights advocates and fertility clinics who called the move discriminatory, but the industry remains otherwise unregulated.

Clinic owners deny ill-treatment of mothers, saying it is in their interest to treat the women well in order for them to have healthy babies.

Thapa, 31, who has the jet-black hair and almond eyes of the Indians of the northeast, said she has no doubt what she did was right in allowing the Australian couple to use her womb to fulfil their dream of parenthood.

"I wanted to be a surrogate mother because I wanted to deposit money into an account for my children for their future. I also wanted to help parents who cannot have children," Thapa said.

She refused to say how much money she earned from the surrogacy but says she wants to start a second pregnancy in April. The clinic told AFP the mothers get \$6,000 from the \$28,000 total surrogacy procedure cost.

During her pregnancy, Thapa lived with her husband in accommodation in New Delhi rented by the Surrogacy Centre India clinic, with over 100 other surrogates.

In 2012, 291 babies were born in the clinic that opened in 2008. They now live in 15 different countries, including Canada, Australia, Japan, Norway and Brazil.

In New Delhi and across India, there are dozens of clinics like the Surrogacy Centre but many refuse to open their doors to the media.

According to Dr Shivani Sachdev Gour, director of the centre, the women recruited never have the desire to keep the baby they have carried for nine months.

Marcia, a 40-year-old Brazilian who lives in Luxembourg, is one such case.

After trying for three years, Marcia has just arrived with her husband in New Delhi to sign a contract with the clinic.

"When I look at the photographs of all these babies in the waiting room, I want to cry," she told AFP, refusing to reveal her full name because she has not told her family about her step.

"I'd rather not meet the surrogate mother who is chosen -- especially since it is not certain the pregnancy will be successful. We've already had so much disappointment."

She said she will initially attempt to have her own embryos transferred into the womb of the surrogate mother but if that fails, she will opt for an "egg donation".

Gour said the clinic organises counselling sessions for the surrogate mothers to stress the importance of eating nourishing food, adding the majority of the women want to repeat the experience.

Swiss bid to ban abortions in the name of GDP



decade had been born, grown up and worked for 45 years, they would have contributed nearly 334 billion Swiss francs (\$359 billion, 274 billion euros) to the country's GDP.

And, as consumers, the same 100,000 people would over 80 years pump more than 324 billion Swiss francs into the country's economy, it says.

The group, which also aims to ban assisted suicide and stem-cell research, quotes the Bible to justify its positions.

The Swiss should "once again found families, make children, raise them and give them a good education," it says, stressing that women should have at least three children each and speaking against contraception.

"Too many women are slaves to the pill," it says.

Another move is under way to try to block most health insurance reimbursements for abortions.

In Switzerland it usually takes at least three years from the time such initiatives gather the necessary signatures until they are submitted to popular vote.

Switzerland decriminalised abortions carried out in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy in 2002.

The country has one of the lowest abortion rates in the world, with only 6.4 abortions for every 1,000 women between the ages of 15 and 44.

GENEVA (AFP) - Swiss pro-lifers launched an initiative Tuesday to ban abortions in the country for economic reasons, saying the practice costs hundreds of billions in lost tax revenues.

The "Protect life to remedy the loss of billions" initiative was launched by an independent group which needs to gather more than 100,000 signatures by August 2014 for the issue to be put to a referendum.

It charges that Switzerland's about 11,000 abortions each year deprive the country's economy of hundreds of billions in lost income taxes and consumption.

"Each unconceived and unborn child will never be able to contribute a single franc to our national income, will never become a consumer, will never be able to contribute to our social institutions," it says on its website.

It calculates that if the more than 100,000 fetuses aborted in Switzerland over the past



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Sci-Tech

AFP's Twitter photo account hacked



The account has since been suspended and AFP is working to restore it.

Most of the images posted by the hackers after the site was hacked were related to the conflict in Syria.

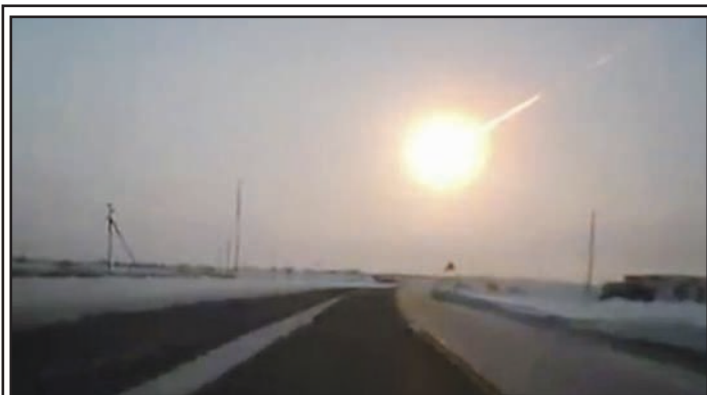
PARIS (AFP) - The Twitter account of AFP's photo service, @AFPphoto, was hacked on Tuesday at 16:45 GMT. The images posted until the account was suspended more than an hour later did not come from the agency, AFP's management said in a statement.

"Starting at 16:45 GMT, the Twitter account of AFP's photo service @AFPphoto was hacked. The documents posted after that on the account did not originate from the agency," the statement said.

At the same time, AFP has been the victim since Monday morning of a so-called "phishing" attack designed to steal the identifications and passwords of agency employees by luring them into logging onto a fake AFP website.

The attack was still under way but has so far been successfully repelled, AFP's security experts said.

It was not clear as of Tuesday night whether the two hacking episodes were related.



-- Researchers have learned more about the Russia meteor's origin, which hit earth on Feb. 15, a team from Columbia has now used amateur video footage to track down the meteoroid's origin. -It's called a chondrite—the most common kind of space rock near Earth (known as the Apollo asteroids, their distinguishing factor being they cross Earth's orbit) And, as Popular Sciencereports, it spent 4.5 billion years in space before rocking Russia. Now volunteer skiers traversed 31 miles of its debris field, picking up more than 100 pieces, the largest of which weighs in at about 2.2 pounds. Some chunks are being sold online for as much as \$16,000, though they haven't been authenticated,

Dell unveils private equity buyout worth \$24.4 bn

NEW YORK (AFP) - Dell unveiled plans Tuesday to take the former number one computer maker private in a buyout led by company founder Michael Dell worth \$24.4 billion.

The company said it had signed "a definitive merger agreement" that gives shareholders \$13.65 per share in cash -- a premium of 25 percent over Dell's closing share price on January 11, before reports of the deal circulated.

The move, which would delist the company from stock markets, could ease some of the pressure on Dell, which is cash-rich but has seen profits slump.

The Texas-based computer maker, which Dell started in his college dormitory room, once

topped a market capitalization of \$100 billion as the world's biggest PC producer.

The plan is subject to several conditions, including a vote of unaffiliated stockholders.

It calls for a "go shop" period to allow shareholders to determine if there is a better offer.

Under terms of the deal, Michael Dell, who currently owns some 14 percent of Dell's common shares, would remain chairman and chief executive and boost his stake with "a substantial additional cash investment," a company statement said.

Cash for the deal will come from Silver Lake, a major tech investment group, and MSD Capital, a fund created to manage Michael Dell's invest-

ments.

The plan also calls for a \$2 billion loan from Microsoft, rollover of existing debt, and financing that has been committed by Bank of America-Merrill Lynch, Barclays, Credit Suisse and RBC Capital Markets.

Analysts have said the deal may give the company a chance to regain some footing in a market in which smartphones and tablets are overtaking laptop and desktop computers.

Dell is now the number three global PC maker, behind Hewlett-Packard and Lenovo, according to the latest report from market tracker IDC, showing Dell's market share of 10.6 percent in the fourth quarter.



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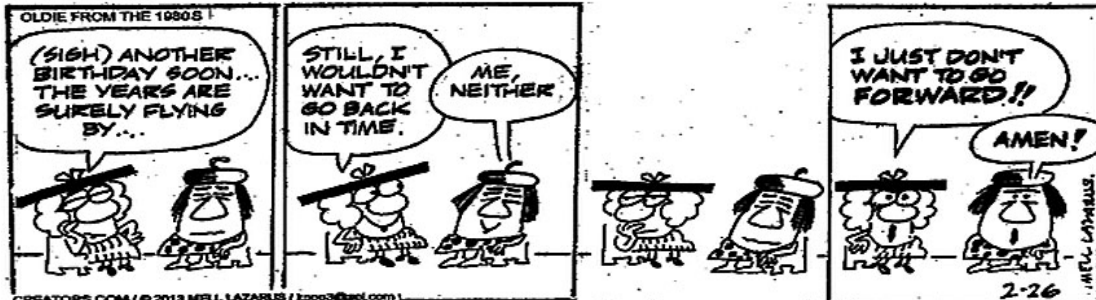
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ACROSS

1. Society gal
4. Loose sediment
8. Physicians' gp.
11. Solemn fear
12. Nurse Barton
14. Jazz instrument, for short
15. Teachers' gp.
16. Pave over again
18. Drummer Gene
20. Mail
21. Rescue worker (abbr.)
23. Philadelphia

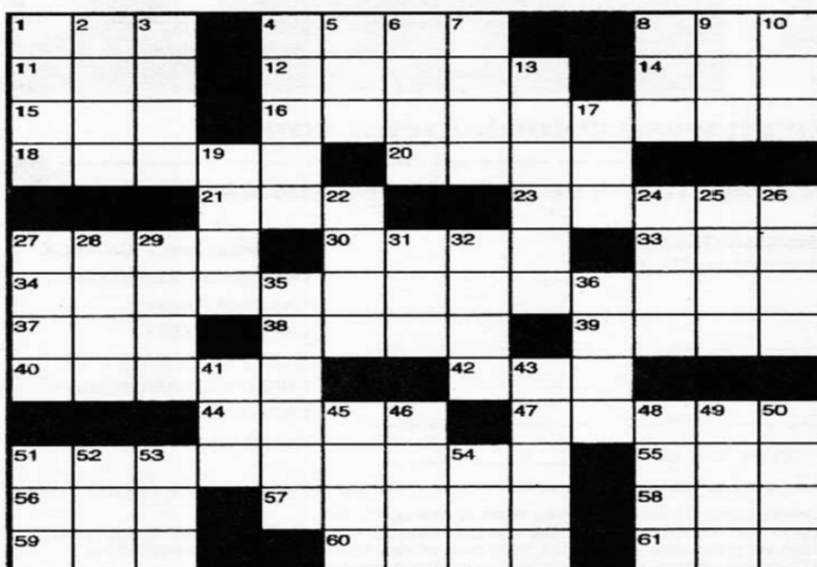
27. Role in "Casablanca"
30. Electrical units
33. Mauna —
34. Military leaders (2 wds.)
37. Attorney's charge
38. Maui, e.g.
39. In a lazy manner
40. Canadian territory
42. Letters on a phone's #3 button
44. Purl's opposite
47. Underage person
51. Belmont Stakes, e.g. (2 wds.)
55. — hockey
56. Pirate's liquor

57. Actress Ruth
58. Frat house letter
59. Fourth-year students (abbr.)
60. Adolescent outcast
61. Landscaper's stock

DOWN

1. Unpleasantly moist
2. Oversized pitcher
3. Geste or Brummel
4. "Vamoose!"
5. — du Diable (Devil's Island)
6. Girl
7. Honest
8. Busy — bee

- (2 wds.)
9. Raincoat, for short
10. Paul Bunyan's tool
13. "Gunsmoke" star
17. Drug-regulating org.
19. Bell sound
22. Some turkeys
24. Happy
25. Lean back indolently
26. "— does it!"
27. Questionable
28. In — of (replacing)
29. Search for
31. Actor Holbrook
32. Wilbur Post's horse (2 wds.)
35. Man's — jacket
36. Gear in a '50s bachelor pad (hyph.)
41. Green-lights
43. Correct copy
45. Tough metal
46. Tone down
48. Puppy bites
49. Eight, to Eduardo
50. Actor Tim ("WKRP")
51. Time periods (abbr.)
52. "— Miss Brooks"
53. Hotel units (abbr.)
54. Trolley —



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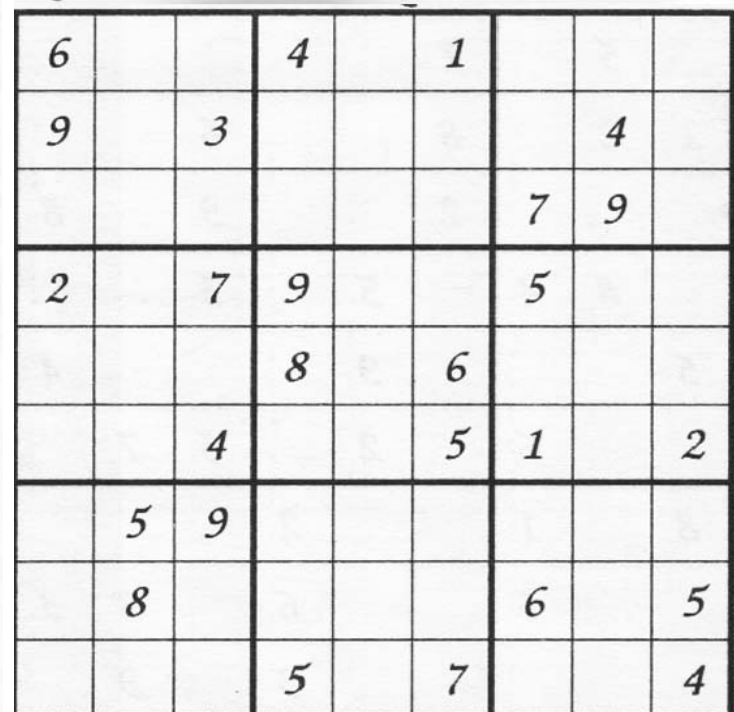
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5	9	6	7	2	1	8	3	4
2	8	3	9	1	6	5	7	4
7	1	5	2	8	3	6	9	4
6	2	9	7	8	5	1	3	4
8	5	7	1	6	4	9	2	3
1	6	2	7	9	8	3	5	4
9	7	8	5	2	1	6	4	3
8	5	1	6	7	2	3	9	4

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Finance

Bernanke: US economy still needs Fed stimulus



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said Tuesday that the US economy still needs the Fed's stimulus, and warned that looming steep budget cuts could further slow growth.

Stressing that high unemployment remains the key challenge to the economy, Bernanke told a Senate panel that the central bank's extraordinary \$85 billion a month bond-purchase program, aimed at holding down long-term interest rates and encouraging investment, was still merited.

The risks of the program -- igniting inflation, and spurring a new round of dangerously risky behavior in the financial industry -- were being monitored closely and were not significant enough yet to curtail stimulus, he said.

"Highly accommodative monetary policy also has several potential costs and risks," he said in prepared remarks.

But the Federal Open Market Committee, the Fed policy board, "remains confident that it has the tools necessary to tighten monetary policy when the time comes to do so."

Bernanke said the \$85 billion a month quantitative-easing program, known as QE3, was "providing important support to the recovery"

while keeping inflation at bay.

The program has boosted the housing market and the production and sales of automobiles and other durable goods, and stimulated the jobs market, he argued.

But with the national jobless rate still at 7.9 percent, Bernanke said, "the job market remains generally weak, with the unemployment rate well above its longer-run normal level."

That harm, he stressed, included reduced government revenues and higher spending, adding to the country's deficit and debt.

He said the Fed was keeping a close eye on signs of risky behavior arising in the financial system due to the prolonged low interest-rate environment, a worry that was expressed in January by some members of the Federal Open Market Committee, the Fed's policy board.

However, he said, "to this point we do not see the potential costs of increased risk-taking in some financial markets as outweighing the benefits of promoting a stronger economic recovery and more job creation."

Bernanke said economic growth remained uneven and could be further hurt by the government's steep budget

cuts, or sequester, slated to take effect Friday if politicians cannot craft a more moderate compromise.

Bernanke cited data from the Congressional Budget Office projecting that the cuts, to be implemented over the remaining seven months of the fiscal year if no moderate substitute program is agreed, would reduce potential economic growth by 0.6 percent.

Bernanke sought to put a halt to speculation that the Fed could curtail the QE3 bond purchases this year, even before targets for cutting unemployment were achieved.

The minutes of the FOMC's January meeting showed some members worried about losing control of monetary policy if the high level of bond purchases continued.

Some FOMC members argued that the Fed could be headed toward a dangerous situation where, when it does decide to reel in the program, the move would have little impact on the markets and inflation could run out of control.

But others on the panel insisted that QE3 remain in place until there was substantial progress in reducing joblessness.

Japan passes \$142 billion stimulus budget

TOKYO (AFP) - Japan's parliament on Tuesday passed a \$142 billion extra budget that forms a key part of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's efforts to tackle the deflation that has dogged the economy for years.

The 13.1 trillion yen (\$142 billion) package squeaked by the opposition-controlled upper house of parliament less than two weeks after the lower house approved the spending.

The measure is part of a wider stimulus package announced by Abe's cabinet in January, after his Liberal Democratic Party swept December elections on a pledge to revive the world's third-largest economy.

The new money will be earmarked for various economy-boosting measures, including job growth, upgrading Japan's ageing infrastructure, and rebuilding disaster-struck areas hit by the 2011 quake-tsunami.

Plugging a public-pension financing gap was among the other spending measures.

The total package could top 20 trillion yen if spending by local governments and the private sector was included.

Japan's economy shrank for a third straight quarter between October and December, leaving it mired in recession largely due to weak export demand, and stirring fears about its ability to cement a recovery.

Abe has pledged to pull Japan out of years of falling prices, which dampen demand and business investment, through big spending and aggressive monetary easing.

He has pressured the Bank of Japan for such policy measures, with a new central bank chief set to be nominated as early as this week.

The hawkish prime minister has also said he would boost defence spending.

But the big spending plans have stoked fears over Japan's already tattered fiscal health, the worst among industrialised nations, with public debt standing at more than twice the size of the economy.



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EU claws back 400 mn euros in farm spending

BRUSSELS (AFP) - The European Commission said Tuesday it is asking member states to pay back some 400 million euros in farm funds for non-compliance with EU rules.

The Commission said it expected a net repayment of 393 million euros, led by Britain with some 138 million euros, after checks on the way Common Agricultural Policy funds were spent.

In a regular accounting exercise covering several years, the Commission said 22 mem-

ber states were involved, with most of the violations technical or bureaucratic.

The CAP accounts for about 40 percent of all EU budget spending of just under one trillion euros (\$1.3 trillion) in the 2007-13 period but this figure has been falling steadily.

After Britain on 138 million euros, Italy owed 76.1 million euros, Spain 63.5 million euros, France 41.4 million euros and Poland 35.1 million euros.

US consumer confidence rebounds in February

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US consumer confidence surged sharply higher in February, snapping three straight months of declines, the Conference Board reported Tuesday.

The Conference Board's February consumer confidence index jumped to 69.6 from 58.4 in January, well above the average analyst estimate of a 62.0 reading.

Overall confidence grew in both consumers' outlook on current business and labor market conditions and their expectations for conditions six months in advance were "cau-

tiously optimistic," the research firm said in a statement.

"Consumer confidence rebounded in February as the shock effect caused by the fiscal-cliff uncertainty and payroll tax cuts appears to have abated," said Lynn Franco, director of surveys at the Conference Board.

After months of political gridlock, Democrats and Republicans reached a last-minute deal to avoid most of the January 1 fiscal-cliff measures that eliminated a payroll tax reduction.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



NEW YORK (AFP) - US banking giant JPMorgan Chase plans to slash 4,000 jobs in 2013 with another 13,000 or more in mortgage unit planned by 2014, as part of a cost-cutting program, according to the company's presentation to investors Tuesday. JPMorgan Chase projected it would reduce overall expenses in 2013 to \$59 billion, approximately \$1 billion below the 2012 level, as the company seeks corporate and investment bank cost synergies, presentation slides showed. JPMorgan reported earnings of \$21.3 billion in 2012, up from \$19 billion a year earlier. The jump in profits came despite an embarrassing \$6.2 billion trading loss stemming from a London trader nicknamed the London "whale." The trading losses led to several resignations and reassignments and resulted in a lower 2012 take-home pay for JPMorgan chief executive Jamie Dimon.

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EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

Benedict to become 'pope emeritus': Vatican



VATICAN CITY (AFP) - Pope Benedict XVI will have the official title of "pope emeritus" and continue wearing the papal white cassock after he resigns on Thursday -- the first leader of the Catholic Church to do so since the Middle Ages, the Vatican said.

Benedict can still be addressed as "Your Holiness Benedict XVI" and will have the additional title of "Roman pontiff emeritus", spokesman Federico Lombardi told the Vatican press corps.

Benedict can also still wear a white cassock normally reserved only for pontiffs -- but without the doubled shoulder cape -- and has chosen to swap his trademark red shoes for a brown pair given to him by artisans in Mexico during a trip last year, Lombardi said.

The Vatican spokesman also said that a series of meetings of cardinals to settle on a date for the start of a conclave to elect Benedict's successor could start on Monday.

Lombardi said the pope had already sorted through official documents from his papacy that will remain in the Vatican and personal notes that he will take with him into retirement.

Benedict holds a final general audience in St Peter's Square on Wednesday, the eve

of his resignation from a troubled eight-year papacy dominated by paedophile priest scandals and Vatican intrigue.

At least 50,000 pilgrims are expected to attend, enough to fill the famous square to overflowing.

On Thursday at around 5:00 pm (1600 GMT), the pope will be flown by helicopter to Castel Gandolfo, the traditional summer residence of popes.

"The symbolic moment will come when the gates (of Castel Gandolfo) close at 8:00 pm and the Swiss Guard leave in a symbolic departure," Lombardi said.

Asked whether Benedict will be the first former pontiff to be called "pope emeritus", Lombardi laughed and said: "We don't know what Celestine V was called when he stepped down. We'll have to ask the historians."

The 13th-century monk was the only other pope in the 2,000-year-old Church's long line of rulers to step down voluntarily -- saying he could not tolerate the intrigues of the Church hierarchy.



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Otis "Damon" Harris, who as first tenor of the Motown ensemble The Temptations sang on such 1970s hits as "Papa Was a Rollin' Stone," has died at the age of 62, US news media reported. Prostate cancer was the cause of death, a family spokesman told the Sun newspaper in Harris's hometown of Baltimore, Maryland. Harris joined The Temptations in 1971 when he was 21 and the group was looking for a new tenor. He stayed on for four years, during which time it won four Grammy awards -- including three for "Papa." He took the stage name Damon to avoid confusion with Otis Williams, who to this day remains leader of the chart-topping group and its only surviving founding member. Later in life Harris devoted himself to the fight against cancer, establishing his own non-profit foundation to raise awareness of the illness among African-American men even as he battled it himself.

Oscars host says 'no way' doing it again



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Oscars host Seth MacFarlane said Tuesday there is "no way" he will do the show again, after his performance was widely criticized as offensive and dull.

The "Family Guy" creator insisted it was fun to have hosted the 85th Academy Awards on Sunday, despite media and online critics panning the show, notably for jokes about actresses' breasts and Jews in Hollywood.

The choice of MacFarlane as Oscars host was seen as the latest attempt to attract younger viewers by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the august industry body which organizes Tinseltown's biggest awards show.

Viewing figures suggested that may have worked -- the US domestic audience was up 11 percent, to just over 40 million, according to the Nielsen

media analysis and polling company.

But MacFarlane posted a Twitter exchange with a fan saying he won't do it again. "RT @CrusePhoto: @SethMacFarlane Would you host the #Oscars again if asked? // No way. Lotta fun to have done it, though," he tweeted.

The comic, who also created potty-mouthed movie bear Ted, had said before the show that he would probably not do it again, telling an interviewer last week: "Even if it goes great, I just don't think that I could do this again."

Critics slammed MacFarlane's opening segment as over-long -- and in particular blasted a song called "We Saw Your Boobs," which listed the actresses who had appeared topless on screen.

A sketch featuring Ted provoked some of the harshest attacks, notably for jokes about Jewish control of Hollywood. The Anti-Defamation League, an anti-Semitism watchdog, blasted them as "offensive and not remotely funny."

On his Twitter feed Tuesday, MacFarlane also posted a link to an "interesting press article about the press anger over the Boobs song," and in another tweet noted: "My cat said the show went well."

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Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



Grandma's classic Stew beef with Rice and Potato salad

An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varela Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine:

The Queen's.

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won

this charming eatery their loyal clientele. Varela's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena - "Full Cheese."

This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

Seafood main courses for Catch of the Day Aruban Style to shrimp and a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mussels. Meat



Varela, Luisa and the next generation of chef

dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or Grilled Tenderloin, each including a choice of 2 side dishes; all quite yummy and bargain-priced to boot!

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food,

without a doubt, this is the way to truly eat like a local. **They are open from 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM, daily**, offering indoor and outdoor dining. Aside from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by



the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community

of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas, The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facili-

ties such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the

least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

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Football: Freiburg through to Cup semi-finals



BERLIN (AFP) - Freiburg came from two goals down to beat Mainz 3-2 after extra time in the quarter-finals of the German Cup on Wednesday to

reach the last four for the first time in their history.

Mainz took a 2-0 lead inside four minutes at the Co-face Arena thanks to goals from Shawn Parker and the Dane Niki Zimling, but the second-half sending-off of Zdenek Pospech helped swing the game in the visitors' favour.

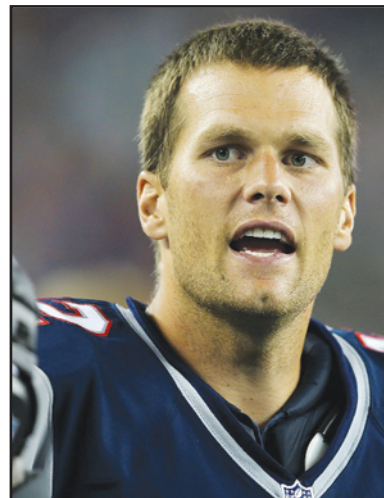
Croatian substitute Ivan Santini pulled one back for Freiburg, the modest club from the south-west of the country who are flying high in fifth place in the Bundesliga.

Daniel Caligiuri then forced extra time with a 90th-minute equaliser, before going on to net the winner.

Later on Tuesday, Wolfsburg were in action away to Kickers Offenbach, the third-tier side who have already eliminated top-flight clubs Greuther Fuerth and Fortuna Duesseldorf.

Bayern Munich play holders Borussia Dortmund in a repeat of last season's final on Wednesday, with Stuttgart and second-tier VfL Bochum meeting in the other quarter-final.

NFL: Brady set to sign lucrative extension, report



BOSTON (AFP) - Three-time Super Bowl champion Tom Brady has agreed to a three-year contract extension with the New England Patriots, according to a report in Sports Illustrated on Monday.

The 35-year-old American quarterback is set to sign an extension worth about \$27 million which would keep him with the team until he is 40 years of age, the magazine said. Brady was signed through the 2014 season.

Nothing is official, as the Patriots have not announced any new deal.

Brady, who is heading into his 14th season in the National Football League, currently has a four-year, \$72 million deal with \$48 million guaranteed.

Drew Brees is the NFL's highest-paid quarterback and would remain so, with an average salary of \$20 million a year.

Rousey's historic UFC victory



ANAHEIM, Calif. - Ronda Rousey stopped Liz Carmouche in the first round with her signature armbar in the main event of UFC 157.

When Liz Carmouche walked into the cage for her UFC 157 headline fight against UFC women's bantamweight champion Ronda Rousey, history was made. For you trivia buffs, Carmouche became the first female fighter to step foot inside the famed UFC Octagon.

Rousey won the first women's fight in UFC history by doing what she had done nine previous times, three in the amateurs and six in the professional ranks.

With the crowd roaring, Rousey dumped Carmouche off her back and then worked relentlessly to get the submission. It came at 4:49 of the first - the latest of Rousey's career - and sent the crowd into a

delirium.

Prior to Rousey vs. Carmouche, the biggest women's pay-per-view fight was Laila Ali vs. Jacqueline "Jacqui" Frazier-Lyde in 2001. The fight, between the daughters of boxing legends Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier, was historic in its own right. It was the first time a female fight headlined a boxing pay-per-view card. The fight reportedly sold over 100,000 pay-per-view buys, while initial estimates on Wrestling Observer Radio put Rousey vs. Carmouche estimates "over 400,000" pay-per-view buys.

Not only was Rousey vs. Carmouche the biggest women's pay-per-view, it will likely also go down as the biggest purse ever paid to a female in combat sports. Gina Carano previously held that accolade.

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NBA: Lawson lifts Nuggets past Lakers



DENVER (AFP) - Ty Lawson scored 22 points and had eight assists as the Denver Nuggets scored 78 points in the paint en route to a 119-108 thrashing of the mistake-prone Los Angeles Lakers on Monday.

Wilson Chandler scored 23 points to lead Denver, who have won three of their past four National Basketball Association games. Chandler was filling in for injured Danilo Gallinari.

The Nuggets had a huge

78-50 point advantage in the paint and also dominated on the free-throw line. The Lakers missed 17 of 31 free throws and turned the ball over 15 times.

Lakers forward Dwight Howard went just three-of-14 from the line.

Lawson has been red-hot lately and has scored 20 or more points in seven consecutive games. Heading into Monday's contest he was averaging 26.2 points in his previous half dozen games.

Five-time NBA champion Kobe Bryant scored a team-high 29 points and had nine assists and six rebounds for the Lakers, who had their three-game win streak snapped. Bryant has averaged over 28 points in his last five games.

"We came in and played a team that plays extremely well at home. They obviously have advantages on us in terms of their athleticism and speed," said Bryant.

Howard finished with 15 points and 14 rebounds in the loss.

Denver seized command in the first half and never looked back. The Nuggets went on a 14-4 run late in the first quarter to take a 35-29 lead.

Kenneth Faried scored five of seven points in one stretch in the second as the Nuggets took a 52-37 lead and then led 67-54 at half-time.

After visiting Denver, the Lakers return to Staples Center arena for back-to-back games versus Minnesota and Atlanta.

Auto racing: Lawyer launches probe for injured NASCAR fans

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - A lawyer hired by three fans hurt when a NASCAR Nationwide Series race crash hurled debris into the grandstand at Daytona International Speedway will focus his probe on the catch-fencing.

"Our firm has the utmost respect for NASCAR and their fans," Matt Morgan of the Orlando, Florida, law firm Morgan and Morgan, said via Twitter on Tuesday. "Our investigation will look into the manufacture of the fence."

"Our goal, is to ensure this type of tragedy does not occur again in the future. Fans deserve to be protected and safe at sporting events," Morgan wrote.

Morgan had announced on Twitter on Monday night that his firm had been retained by three people hurt in the frightening crash at the Daytona Beach circuit, which occurred on Saturday in the waning moments of the race that served as a curtain-raiser to Sunday's Daytona 500.

Kyle Larson, a rising Japanese-American driver who was making his first start in NASCAR's second-tier Nationwide series, was caught in a pile-up of a dozen cars and

launched into the fencing separating the track from the stands.

The front end of his car tore a gaping hole in the fence, the smoldering engine staying trapped there as a tire and other debris hurtled into the midst of terrified fans.

Daytona International Speedway president Joie Chitwood said 28 people were hurt -- 14 taken to local hospitals and 14 more treated at the track's medical center.

Chitwood never confirmed reports that one person had surgery for serious head trauma or that at least one other person suffered injuries considered serious, if not life-threatening.

Chitwood said he sat in the sections of the stands involved in the accident during parts of Sunday's race, where he was welcomed by spectators.

NASCAR's analysis of the incident began on Monday at its research and development center in Concord, North Carolina.

NASCAR engineers and outside experts were examining debris and video replays as they seek to determine why the car's front end sheared off and what if any safety protocols need to be changed or upgraded.



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